

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05
SS-15 /045 W

-----015223 290008Z /70

R 281846Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO USINFO WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE
SECSTATE WASHDC 4018
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MADRID 03278

SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE HUGHES; EUR/RPM
USIA FOR IOP/F

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. MADRID DAILIES MARCH 28 GAVE EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP.

2. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL LEFT "EL PAIS", IN A
REPORT FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, NOTED
THAT IN VENEZUELA OIL WILL BE THE MAJOR TOPIC
OF DISCUSSION. IT SAID: "IN HIS CONVERSATIONS
WITH THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES
PEREZ, IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT CARTER WILL TAKE
UP THE QUESTION OF THE FALL IN THE VALUE OF THE
AMERICAN DOLLAR AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE PRICE
OF CRUDE."

3. THE PAPER CONTINUED: "THE PRESENCE OF CARTER
IN CARACAS, ONLY DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF
THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN SCHEDULED FOR
DECEMBER, CAN ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS A DESIRE ON
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WASHINGTON'S PART TO SHOW ITS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT
ANDRES PEREZ AND HIS CANDIDATE, LUIS PINERUA.

4. "EL PAIS" GOES ON TO NOTE THE TENSION BETWEEN
PRESIDENT CARTER AND BRAZILIAN LEADERS OVER HUMAN
RIGHTS AND THE NATION'S NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAM.

5. GOVERNMENT ORIENTED "ARRIBA" STATES THAT "NO GREAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED. THERE ARE NO IMPORTANT ACCORDS IN VIEW NOR ANY DECLARATIONS WHICH WILL CLARIFY NORTHAMERICAN POSITIONS ON MAJOR THEMES. NOR DOES IT SEEM LIKELY THAT CARTER WILL PRESSURE BRAZIL TO ABANDON ITS NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM."

6. ON NIGERIA "ARRIBA" SAYS: "IN THE NIGERIAN CAPITAL CARTER WILL EXPLAIN THE ALTERNATIVE HIS ADMINISTRATION OFFERS TO THE SOVIET AND CUBAN OFFENSIVE IN AFRICA. IN REALITY HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CURB THE SOVIET OPERATION WHICH CONSISTS OF AN ATTEMPT TO BALANCE ITS LOSSES IN OTHER ZONES OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT (ESPECIALLY THE MIDDLE EAST). AND THE FORM OF CURBING, IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, CANNOT BE MILITARY BUT MUST BE POLITICAL.

7. CATHOLIC CENTRIST "YA" DESCRIBES THE TRIP AS FOLLOWS: "THIS CHOICE OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WAS SELECTED WITH CARE. IN VENEZUELA HE WILL NOT ONLY FIND OIL BUT A PRESIDENT SYMPATHETIC, AND EVEN ENTHUSIASTIC, ABOUT NORTH AMERICAN POLICY. THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT, THE WRITER GOES ON, WILL USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR U.S. AID IN ESTABLISHING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

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ORDER BASED ON FAIRER PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS."

8. "YA" NOTES THAT "NO GREAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED FROM THIS 'TOUR' OF CARTER TO THE THIRD WORLD BUT IT CAN SERVE AT LEAST TO STRENGTHEN U.S. CONTACTS WITH UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS." RYLANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENT, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID03278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780135-0195
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780319/aaaaapmn.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 194381bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3184093
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, SP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: USIA USCINCEUR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/194381bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014